

PATENT APPLICATION

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A customer operated self-service film processing system comprising:
 - a display viewable by the customer; and
 - a film processing system operable to receive undeveloped film, wherein the
- 5 film processing system develops the undeveloped film and digitizes the developed film to produce digital images that are displayed to the customer.
2. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1, further comprising a payment system operable to receive payment from the customer.
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3. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 2, wherein the payment system comprises a magnetic card reader.
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4. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 3, wherein the magnetic card reader operates to read information from a credit card.
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5. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 3, wherein the magnetic card reader operates to read information from a pre-paid card.
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6. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 2, wherein the payment system comprises a bar-code reader.
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7. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 2, wherein the payment system comprises a currency receptacle operable to receive currency.
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8. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1, further comprising a printing system.

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9. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 8,
wherein the printing system comprises an ink-jet printer.

10. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 8,
5 wherein the printing system comprises a dye-sublimation printer.

11. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 8,
wherein the printing system comprises a photographic print processing system.

10 12. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 8,
wherein the customer chooses the digital images to print.

13. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 8,
wherein the printing system comprises an integral printing system.

15 14. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 8,
wherein the printing system comprises a remote printing system.

16 15. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim
20 14, wherein the remote printing system produces prints that are sent to the customer.

16. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim
14, wherein the remote printing system produces prints that are picked-up by the
customer.

25 17. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1,
further comprising a printer operable to produce a receipt.

18. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1,

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further comprising an image input device.

19. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim
18, wherein the image input device operates to receive image data from a digital
5 camera.

20. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim
18, wherein the image input device comprises a flash card reader.

10 21. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim
18, wherein the image input device comprises a flatbed scanner.

22. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim
18, wherein the image input device comprises a film scanner.

15 23. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim
18, wherein the image input device comprises a memory device.

24. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim
20 23, wherein the memory device comprises a CD reader.

25. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim
23, wherein the memory device comprises a DVD reader.

25 26. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim
18, wherein the image input device comprises a communications port operable to
receive image data.

27. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim

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26, wherein the communications port is connected to the Internet.

28. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 18, further comprising a printing system operable to print image data received from 5 the image input device.

29. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 18, further comprising a communications port operable to communicate image data received from the image input device.

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30. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1, wherein the display comprises a touch screen display.

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31. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1, further comprising a customer input device.

32. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 31, wherein the customer input device comprises a keypad.

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33. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 31, wherein the customer input device comprises a touch screen.

34. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1, wherein the film processing system includes image enhancement software.

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35. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 34, wherein the customer chooses between an un-enhanced image and an enhanced image.

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36. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1, wherein the film processing system comprises a wet chemistry film processing system.

5 37. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1, wherein the film processing system comprises a digital film processing system.

38. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 10 37, wherein the digital film processing system comprises:

10 a development system operable to develop the film;
a scanning system operable to scan the developed film with visible light and produce sensor data;
a data processing system operable to receive the sensor data and produce the digital images.

15 39. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 38, wherein the visible light comprise red and green light transmitted through the developed film.

20 40. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 38, wherein the scanning system also operates to scan the undeveloped film with infrared light.

25 41. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1, further comprising an archive memory system operable to store the digital images.

42. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 41, further comprising a communications port operable to provide remote access to the digital images.

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43. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 42, wherein remote access is provided through an Internet web site.

44. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 1,
5 further comprising a memory system operable to store the digital images on a storage media provided to the customer.

45. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 44, wherein the storage media comprises a CD.

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46. The customer operated self-service film processing system of Claim 44, wherein the storage media comprises a DVD.

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47. A self-service digital film processing system comprising:
a customer interface having a display and a film receptacle operable to receive undeveloped film from a customer;
a development system operable to coat a processing solution onto the
5 undeveloped film and develop the film;
a scanning system operable to scan the coated developed film and produce sensor data; and
a data processing system operable to receive the sensor data and produce digital images that are displayed on the display to the customer.

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48. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 47, wherein the display comprises a touch screen display.

- 15 49. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 47, wherein the customer interface further comprises a sound system.

50. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 47, wherein the customer interface further comprises a customer input device.

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51. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 50, wherein the customer input device comprises a keypad.

52. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 47, wherein the customer interface further comprises a payment system.

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53. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 52, wherein the payment system operates to read a credit card.

54. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 52, wherein

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the payment system operates to read a prepaid photoprocessing card.

55. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 52, wherein
the payment system operates to read a receipt.

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56. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 47, further
comprising one or more output devices.

57. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 56, wherein at
10 least one of the output devices comprises a printer.

58. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 57, wherein
the printer comprises an ink-jet printer.

15 59. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 57, wherein
the printer comprises a dye-sublimation printer.

60. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 57, wherein
the printer operates to produce photographic print.

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61. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 57, wherein
the printer comprises an external printer.

25 62. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 56, wherein at
least one of the output devices comprises a memory device operable to store one or
more digital images on a storage media.

63. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 62, wherein
the storage media comprises a CD.

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64. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 62, wherein
the storage media comprises a DVD.

5 65. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 56, wherein at
least one of the output devices comprises a communication network operable to
output the digital images.

10 66. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 65, wherein
the communication network operates in conjunction with an Internet web site.

67. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 47, further
comprising one or more image input devices.

15 68. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 67, wherein at
least one of the image input devices comprises a scanner.

69. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 67, wherein at
least one of the image input devices comprises a signal input.

20 70. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 69, wherein
the signal input operates to receive image data from a digital camera.

71. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 69, wherein
25 the signal input operates to receive image data from a flash card.

72. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 67, wherein at
least one of the image input devices comprises a communication network.

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73. The self-service digital film processing system of Claim 72, wherein
the communication network operates in conjunction with an Internet web site.

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74. A method for allowing a customer to process their own photographic film comprising:

5 inserting the undeveloped film into a self-service film processing system;
developing the film within the self-service film processing system;
scanning the developed film within the self-service film processing system to produce digital images; and
displaying one or more of the digital images to the customer at the self-service film processing system.

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75. The method of Claim 74, further comprising displaying the digital images and enhanced digital images to the customer to allow the customer to choose between the digital images and the enhanced digital images.

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76. The method of Claim 74, further comprising printing one or more of the digital images.

77. The method of Claim 74, further comprising saving one or more of the digital images.

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78. The method of Claim 74, further comprising:
receiving customer choices regarding the digital images to be output; and
outputting the chosen digital images.

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79. The method of Claim 78, wherein the chosen digital images are output to a printer.

80. The method of Claim 78, wherein the chosen digital images are output to a communications network.

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81. The method of Claim 78, wherein the chosen digital images are output to a memory device.

5 82. The method of Claim 74, wherein the self-service film processing system develops the film using wet chemistry film processing methods.

83. The method of Claim 74, wherein the self-service film processing system develops the film using digital film processing methods.

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84. The method of Claim 74, further comprising accepting payment from the customer at the self-service film processing system.

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85. A self-service film processing station comprising:
a display viewable by a customer;
a film processing system operable to receive undeveloped film from the
customer, wherein the film processing system develops the undeveloped film and
5 digitizes the developed film to produce digital images that are displayed to the
customer;
a customer input device operable to receive customer choices regarding which
digital images to print; and
a printer operable to print the customer chosen digital images.

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86. The self-service film processing station of Claim 85, further
comprising one or more image input devices operable to receive digital images.

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87. The self-service film processing station of Claim 86, wherein at least
one of the image input devices comprises a digital camera memory device.

88. The self-service film processing station of Claim 86, wherein at least
one of the image input devices comprises a scanner.

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89. The self-service film processing station of Claim 85, further
comprising one or more payment systems operable to receive payment information
from the customer.

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90. The self-service film processing station of Claim 89, wherein at least
one of the payment systems comprises a magnetic card reader.

91. The self-service film processing station of Claim 85, wherein the
printer comprises an ink-jet printer.

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92. The self-service film processing station of Claim 85, wherein the printer operates to produce photographic prints.

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93. A prepaid photoprocessing card comprising:
a media; and
an encoded data device coupled to the media, the encoding data device
contains a money balance operable to be used for payment in a self-service film
processing system.
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94. The prepaid photoprocessing card of Claim 93, wherein the encoded
data device also contains demographic data stored on the encoded data device prior to
use of the prepaid photoprocessing card by the customer.

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95. The prepaid photoprocessing card of Claim 94, wherein the
demographic data is communicated by the self-service film processing system to a
marketing center each time the prepaid photoprocessing card is used by the customer.

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